

OVERVIEW

This management plan will direct the cooperative management of the Carrizo Plain Natural Area (CPNA) for the next ten to twelve years. While recognizing that different land ownership exists within the area, the management of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) lands will be guided by this plan. Although this plan focuses on initial management actions, the guidelines, goals and objectives reflect the long-term commitment by the managing partners to ensure that the CPNA is managed for the persistence of natural communities and indigenous species.

Implementation will be a cooperative effort to complete the actions within the constraints of agency policy, mandate and budgetary constraints. This plan will be reviewed and evaluated on a yearly basis, and revised as necessary.

The plan will serve to:

- a. Establish long-term mission and vision statements that reflect the long-term objectives of the CPNA.
- b. Outline objectives and goals for the life of this plan that will help to achieve the mission.
- c. Consolidate a descriptive inventory of area resources and outline appropriate public uses of those resources. Technical appendices will be maintained to incorporate all current and future operational documents appropriate for the area and maintain historical resource accounts.
- d. Provide an overview of operations, maintenance and personnel needs to assist in developing annual work plans and budgeting for implementation of plan goals.

The plan also contains the required environmental documentation to comply with state and federal statutes and regulations for the development of project area management plans. Public scoping for plan development occurred concurrent with the development of the BLM's Caliente Resource Management Plan (RMP). Scoping has included a series of public meetings held in 1989 and 1991. Further meetings were held upon release of the Draft RMP in 1994 which included a preliminary draft of the CPNA Management Plan as Appendix J.

In order to preserve the nationally significant biological, geological, cultural, and recreation values found in the Carrizo Plain as an enduring legacy of our heritage, and to secure for future generations the opportunity to experience these values in an environment rich in biological diversity and natural beauty. Legislation has been written to designate Carrizo Plains as a National Conservation Area (NCA). If this legislation is passed during the life of this plan some of the stipulations of the legislation will supersede this plan. (Technical appendix)

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's), describes the processes that will be utilized in completing management actions. Those processes will include site specific resource assessments, a range of standard project mitigation measures and, as appropriate, further consultation and documentation. This plan was designed to be adaptable through inventory, monitoring, and assessment as actions are implemented.

Implementation of the plan will depend on a cooperative effort between the managing partners, Native Americans, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), docents, volunteers and the public. An annual work plan will be completed, and will focus resources on the general implementation priorities identified in this plan. Further information on implementation is addressed under the Plan Operation section.

